

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1619
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2000
AGRICULTURAL MARKET FACILITIES
GIRIJA VYAS

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to draw any action plan for strengthening, upgrading and expanding agricultural marketing facilities in the States during the current financial year; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO)

(a) & (b): The primary responsibility for strengthening, upgrading and expanding agricultural marketing facilities in the States vest with the State Governments and the Agricultural Produce Market Committees, which have been established under the respective State Agricultural Marketing Regulation Acts. However, the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection (DMI), an attached office of this Ministry, has been taking various steps for bringing about an integrated development of marketing of agricultural produce in the country. The main activities of DMI relate to promotion of standardisation and grading of agricultural produce, marketing research, surveys and planning, and provision of training facilities for employees of State Governments on regulation and management of Agricultural produce Markets. Recently, a Central Sector Scheme for Agricultural Marketing Information Network has been approved for establishing a nation-wide network for speedy collection and dissemination of market information/data for their efficient and timely utilisation. Under this scheme, the important Agricultural Produce Markets and State Agricultural marketing Boards/Departments in the country will be linked up through a computer network. The scheme would, inter alia, help the farmers to realise better prices for their produce.